

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1871.

THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the Republican party of Pennsylvania will meet at the Logan House, Altoona, on Wednesday, June 21, at 12 M. A full attendance is requested, as business of importance will be transacted.

RUSSELL ERMERT, Chairman.

Republican newspapers please copy.

A FEW POINTS FOR REPUBLICAN VOTERS TO CONSIDER.

ONE of our morning contemporaries, previous to the meeting of the conventions, urged the importance of making good nominations, but at the same time announced its intention of supporting the regular ticket, no matter what names were upon it. As a matter of course the wire-pullers were not frightened to any given extent, and the regular Republican ticket, which, true to its promise, our contemporary is now earnestly advocating, is chiefly remarkable for containing the names of but two or three men who are at all worthy of the public confidence.

What value the arguments and appeals of a paper that has guaranteed in advance to support any nomination that might be made can have with intelligent men, we are unable to understand; and as the rank and file of the Republican party have never yet given their adhesion to the old Democratic doctrine that it is the duty of every member of the party to vote for the Devil if he is the regular nominee, it is to be hoped that they will not do so at this late day. Scratching has always been considered rather a virtue than otherwise in the Republican ranks, and the operations of the scratchers have done more to preserve the purity of the party than any other influence. Men who yield their individual judgment, who permit themselves to blindly follow wherever certain politicians may choose to lead them, and who at every election vote whatever ticket is placed in their hands without inquiry as to the fitness of the candidates, have about as much influence as so many logs of wood, and logs of wood are about as capable of appreciating the responsibilities that devolve upon citizenship. It is the independent voters who make it a rule to scratch liberally when there is necessity for it, and who resolutely refuse to vote for corrupt men, who really hold the balance of power; and we sincerely hope that the noble army of scratchers will be out in force at the next election, unless some radical changes are made in the Republican ticket between now and October.

This morning our contemporary above referred to offers to its readers a number of reasons why the Republican voters of Philadelphia should vote for the whole ticket, and it suggests that from complete harmony complete victory will follow. We concur in this last proposition, but there will be neither complete harmony in the Republican party, nor will it achieve complete victory, with a ticket for the most part made up of names of notoriously corrupt and incompetent men. Before the nominations were made we pointed out the way to victory when we urged that the best men of the Republican party should be put up for the offices to be filled in October, and if this had been done the triumph of the Republican ticket would have been assured.

Our contemporary asks, "What good can any Republican hope to accomplish by voting against this ticket?" The answer to this naive question is very easy—so easy, indeed, that we wonder it did not occur to the writer of the article in question. The answer is, that by so doing they will probably prevent the nomination of such a ticket next year, for our contemporary is totally mistaken when it states that the ticket represents the wishes of forty thousand Republicans of all races and classes. It is a well-known fact that the nominations were set up in advance, and that the delegate elections were so manipulated that there was absolutely no choice, and the men who arranged the nominations on the yon-tickle-me-and-I'll-tickle-you principle evidently have a very poor opinion of the intelligence of the average Republican voter, or they would be very shy of making any reference to the manner in which the nominations were made.

Two other of the queries of our contemporary contain suggestions of importance, and they deserve to be looked into, as they contain the gist of the whole matter. They are as follows:—

"Does anybody expect to improve the financial condition of Philadelphia by electing politicians to take charge of the city government who belong to the party that plunged the nation into bankruptcy before the Rebellion, and covered Pennsylvania with debt?"

"Is there a Republican in Philadelphia who does not know that the defeat of the Republican party in the coming election will be to give over this city to the imitators of Tammany in New York, where the rights of person and of property are openly defied?"

To the first of these questions we will reply by asking one:—

"Does anybody expect to improve the financial condition of Philadelphia by electing politicians who are notoriously corrupt, and who only make use of the machinery of the Republican party to promote their own advancement and to secure opportunities for plunder?"

There are honest men outside of the Republican organization, and if the Democrats only have the wisdom to nominate such a

ticket as they can nominate if they will, they will both deserve and receive the support of citizens who think that an honest and economical administration of the city government is a matter of the very highest importance.

With regard to the second query, we answer that many Republicans know that the ticket offered for their acceptance is for the most part made up of the names of men who are watching the performances of "Boss" Tweed and his confederates with unceasing envy, and who long for an opportunity to establish a Tammany government in Philadelphia. Some of them were the originators and the prominent supporters of the infamous commission bills introduced at the last session of the Legislature, and if they are elected to fill valuable offices next October, it may be considered as certain that the commission schemes will be revived in some shape or other, and with a fair prospect of success. The Tammany ring of New York professes to be Democratic, but that is only for the purpose of securing those who always vote the straight Democratic ticket no matter what names may be upon it. In point of fact, the Tammany ring is a no-party organization: its only principle is plunder, and it makes use of men of all parties to accomplish its ends. Are the voters of Philadelphia willing to risk having the government of Philadelphia modelled after that of New York by electing the objectionable characters who have forced themselves upon the Republican ticket? If they are not, they have but one course to adopt, and that is to cast their votes for decent men, if any are put up, no matter what their political principles may be; and a crushing defeat of the present ring ticket will do more to secure good nominations and a Republican victory next year than anything that could happen.

A GRATEFUL ESTIMATE OF WEST POINT

We had almost thought that one of a contemporary's "fancies" had strayed into its "facts" when we first alighted on its late estimate of West Point, but, looking more closely, we found it to be a fact grimmer than even any of its fancies. "West Point," says our contemporary, "should be either thoroughly reformed or else put out of existence; for ourselves, we care very little which. If we cannot have a better managed national academy than the present, we had better have none at all." Hoity-toity! how ruthless is the possessor of unlimited power! But it strikes us, if we may be permitted to think, that if our contemporary's last proposition, with its implication of possible reform in the institution, be granted, there is very little good temper and sense in our contemporary's saying that it cares very little whether or not the institution is put out of existence. Is the hitch in the writing or in right thinking?

We find it asserted that "if there is any set of persons in the United States who thoroughly misunderstand their own position, it is the cadets at West Point." Now we should not, just at the present speaking, be willing to affirm that, for we are inclined to think that one who sets out dogmatically to teach, and finds himself taught, is in about the falsest position in which one can be placed, and in that position is our contemporary.

These young men of West Point, continues our contemporary, are educated and salaried at the public expense, and being treated with so much liberality, all that is asked of them in return is to be "orderly, gentlemanly, and loyal." Really, to judge by the way this is put, one should suppose that we were speaking of some eleemosynary institution. But what is the fact? To quote the words of General Cullum, the painstaking and accurate compiler of "The Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy," "The nation maintains the Military Academy for its own, and not for the graduates' interest." It seems rather ridiculous to mention that, but some people are not well informed as to the Government's object. Is nothing expected of them but to be "orderly, gentlemanly, and loyal?" A great deal more is expected, and received, too. A cadet pledges himself to serve in the army for a certain time after graduating, and so strong is the force of precedent which honor has established and abided by, that it is extremely rare for a graduate of West Point to resign his commission until he has served long enough to repay by his services all that he has received.

"As to loyalty," still continues our contemporary "the country has not yet forgotten that every Southern cadet deserted his colors, and sided with the Rebels, even though his own State might be nearly divided." Hear General Cullum:—"Of those [officers] appointed in the army from civil life nearly one-half, while but a little over one-fifth of the West Point officers, left the service and joined the rebellion." Can Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Union, Princeton, or any other college in the land show a higher record of patriotism and sacrifice? Assuredly not: for their Southern graduates espoused the Rebel cause almost en masse. And is it just to launch anathemas at the Military Academy which saved by the antidote of its loyal teaching one-half of its Southern pupils, who, from infancy to early manhood, before they entered this our truly national institution, had imbibed the poison of secession till the virus had permeated every fibre of their hearts and brains? That noble band of one hundred and sixty-two Southern graduates, cradled and reared in State allegiance, but rescued from treason by West Point influences, bravely battled against rebellion, and no less firmly against every appeal of relative and friend to swerve them from loyalty and duty. These, with all Northern officers (save sixteen who dishonored their Alma Mater) and one hundred and ten graduates from civil life who rejoined the military service, fought the good fight for the Union.

Now what is the ostensible cause of all this hullabaloo about the Academy? The hazing of cadets by cadets. We do not deny the hazing is reprehensible, and, believing so, we

reprehend it. But are we in consequence to indulge in, to countenance, or to maintain silence under the infliction of a sweeping tirade against the Academy? The opinion of those most favorably situated to form an opinion is that to West Point, with all its faults, is due, directly or indirectly, whatever military success and prestige we enjoy—the very integrity of the republic. The estimate of the people at large holds that the graduates of West Point are as a class remarkable for ability, refinement, culture, and integrity. The young graduate leaves the Academy a little too stiff in his gait, his cap a little too much a-cock, and with a little too much conceit within it; but is he essentially different from the civilian graduate? He is in that phase a cub, which, like all other cubs, the world is to try to lick into shape; and in his case, the world, having generally good material to work upon, generally succeeds in the attempt. Well did the superintendent of the Academy say, "Boys will be boys," to which we add, Would that such a rule applied also to men!

THE PORT WARDENS BILL.

By a communication which appears in another column, it will be seen that we were led into a serious error yesterday in our comments upon the supplement to the law relating to the Port Wardens, because we innocently supposed that the Secretary of the Board of Trade had good authority for his statement, that an enormous fee was henceforth to be exacted from every little shallop entering the port of Philadelphia. It appears that Secretary Perkins has magnified a fee of one dollar and fifty cents into the astounding aggregate of one hundred and fifty dollars; and it is alleged, further, that the new bill makes no increase whatever of the fees hitherto collected, its object being merely to ensure prompt reports of vessels arriving, so that complete statistical tables may be prepared, and that confusion in the harbor and evasions of laws intended to guard the health of the city may be prevented. Under these circumstances we feel bound to apologize to the gentlemen whom we attacked, and to inform our readers that the statement of the Secretary of the Board of Trade, on which our article of yesterday was based, was incorrect in its most essential particulars.

It appears by an Associated Press despatch from Washington that the aggregate deficit in the accounts of the Collectors of Internal Revenue reaches nearly three millions of dollars, more than one-third of this sum being due by collectors residing in the State of Louisiana, whose large defalcations are attributed to the cumbersome machinery provided for the collection of taxes on cotton. It is said that a large portion of the sums due the Government will be collected from the bondsmen of the defaulters during the present year, and it is to be hoped that this anticipation will be realized. In view of the immense amounts already paid into the National Treasury as products of internal revenue, the deficits in the loyal States are comparatively small; but it is right that the claims of the Government should be rigidly collected in every instance, so that tax-payers may at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the sums exacted from them have all found their way into the national coffers instead of the pockets of plundering politicians.

NOTICES.

COMMUNISTS COMING TO AMERICA! Cable telegrams announce that tens of thousands of the Paris Communists are preparing to come to this country. There is nothing to be done, we suppose, but to let them come, and though they have behaved of late as if they all needed "straight jackets," we will clothe them in graceful and cheap garments from Oak Hall, and thus submit them to civilization and reeking influences which will soon make them harmless and peaceable citizens.

GENTS' SUMMER SUITS MADE OF LINEN, DUCK, DRAP D'ETE, THIN CASSIMERE, ALPACA COATS, COSTUMES DE VOYAGE COATS, WHITE MARSEILLES VESTS, DEVEES

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The first of the season. [14p]

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Fine Light Weight Coats, \$5.00, \$7.00, \$10.00, \$12.00.

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" " " " Vests, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00.

" " " " Duck Pants, \$3.00, \$4.00.

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